

Abstract of the Disclosure:

A method for operating a reformer installation for providing hydrogen-containing gas, especially during a starting phase of 5 energy generation using a fuel cell, includes feeding an incoming stream to and discharging an outgoing stream from, the reformer unit, branching-off at least one outflowing partial stream from the outgoing stream, and feeding-back the outflowing partial stream, as an inflowing partial stream, to 10 the incoming stream, to at least partially form a circulating stream. The outflowing partial stream has a composition corresponding to a composition of the outgoing stream upon emerging from the reformer unit. A reformer installation includes at least one reformer unit having feed and discharge 15 lines and a line connecting the discharge line to the feed line, at least partially forming a circulating stream. The method and installation provide a highly efficient production of hydrogen and especially short times required for starting the reformer installation.

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